

Transcript of Eric Bullen Audio Clip

Eric: We were, of course, facing the Germans and I was sheltering behind a Jeep which had been left there and the shells from the German army were falling all around us and one of them hit the tank and we – shrapnel caught me and –

Mrs Bullen: And you lost a finger.

Eric: Damaged my hand and I had shrapnel in the shoulder and I passed out and the next thing I knew they ordered a Jeep to take me back to the dressing station and as the Jeep swirled away so a shell would land where we were. So the Germans had obviously spotted the movement and were trying to stop the Jeep. Luckily, I escaped that and they got me back to a dressing station where I saw an officer and I naturally addressed him as Sir and he said, 'No need to call me sir, my name is Tom'. I said, 'I think I've got shrapnel on my back', and he said – looked at it and he said, 'No, it's second degree burns and it smells very much of petrol'. So we realised then that the petrol can on the Jeep that I was sheltering behind had been riddled and the petrol had showered over my back. But, of course, I lay unconscious for quite a while and was unaware of this. So there I was with petrol ridden back and shrapnel had taken one finger off and the other two were ripped open on my – my right hand and I was invalided out of the army.